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Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 DEAE-00 /034 R

DRAFTED BY D/HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN:LGS
APPROVED BY D/HA:JMWILSON, JR.
D/HA/ORM:JLCARLIN
SCA - JDEWITT
INS:JGREENE
EA:KQUINN
EA/VLC:JDROSENTHAL
EA/IMS:EINGRAHAM
----------290536Z 105338 /22
P 290124Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL BRISBANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: WCRP RESCUE ACTIVITIES.

1. DEPARTMENT SHARES UNHCR CONCERN THAT HUMANITARIAN
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EFFORTS BY WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE (WCRP) TO
ASSIST INDOCHINESE REFUGEES COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO
INTEREST OF THOSE WHOM WCRP SEEKS TO HELP.

2. UNLESS WCRP HAS A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHERE THEY WILL
BE ABLE TO LAND REFUGEES BEFORE BOARDING THEM FROM SEA
COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM, THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY RISKING

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REFUSAL OF SUCH COUNTRIES TO RECEIVE THOSE REFUGEES BACK IF THAT BECOMES NECESSARY. MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE BELIEVE THE ACTIVITIES OF THIS GROUP MAY WELL CONSTITUTE A DISRUPTIVE ELEMENT WHICH COULD UNSETTLE THE CURRENT GRUDGING DE FACTO ACCEPTANCE BY MALAYSIA AND THAILAND OF MOST REFUGEE BOAT CASES REACHING THEIR SHORES.

3. WITH RESPECT TO ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH REFUGEES BY THE UNITED STATES, AT GUAM OR ELSEWHERE, OBVIOUSLY NO COMMITMENT TO ACCEPT THESE REFUGEES COULD BE MADE PRIOR TO THEIR INTERVIEW BY UNITED STATES CONSULAR AND IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES. AS POSTS AWARE, PRIORITY ATTENTION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROCEDURES FOR THE PROCESSING OF

SELECTED BOAT CASE REFUGEES FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY AND NON-PREFERENCE VISAS. WE BELIEVE WCRP ACTIVITIES CAN ONLY BE DISRUPTIVE TO THIS PROCES.WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WHO ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST IN MEETING THE PROBLFM OF RESETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINESE BOAT CASE REFUGEES WOULD BE EQUALLY UNWILLING AND UNABLE TO DELEGATE TO WCRP THE DECISION ON WHICH REFUGEES PROCEED TO THOSE COUNTRIES.

4.ORIGINAL REPORT ON PROPOSED ACTIVITIES BY WCRP SUGGESTPD THAT THEY WOULD BE ATTEMPTING TO RESCUE REFUGEES IN DISTRESS AT SEA. GIVEN THE REFUSAL OF SINGAPORE TO LAND REFUGEES FROM COMMERCIAL VESSELS AND THE SUBSEQUENT REFUSAL OF MANY SUCH VESSELS TO RENDER ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AT SEA, THIS SEEMED A PROJECT WHICH, THOUGH SOMEWHAT DOUBTFUL OF SUCCESS, COULD ONLY BE APPLAUDED. THE DIRECTION WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WCRP EFFORTS HAVE NOW TAKEN ARE, ON THE CONTRARY, MOST UNFORTUNATE.

5. FOR SINGAPORE AND KUALA LUMPUR. WCRP REPS SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OUR CONCERN. THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT EFFORTS TO LAND THESE REFUGEES IN GUAM OR OTHER US PORTS WITHOUT PROPER DOCUMENTATION IS ILLEGAL AND WILL SURELY DISRUPT OUR EFFORTS TO ARRANGE FOR LEGAL ENTRY FOR THESE REFUGEES UNDER CONDITIONAL ENTRY. WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO URGE THAT WCRP REPS ATTEMPT TO COORDINATE THEIR ACTIVITIES WITH THE UNHCR.

6. FOR GENEVA: MISSION SHOULD TAKE EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO

MAKE FOREGOING VIEWS KNOWN TO UNHCR AND URGE UNHCR GENEVA TO REINFORCE REPRESENTATIONS OF UNHCR REP IN SINGAPORE WITH WCRP.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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SAS ID: 3592618
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WCRP RESCUE ACTIVITIES.
TAGS: SREF, EWWT, SN, WCRP
To: SINGAPORE KUALA LUMPUR
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f02e71d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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